

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael J. Guzniczak (Reg. No. 59,820) on 18 November 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

11. (Currently Amended) A storage apparatus comprising:

a first interface unit for connection to a first external apparatus, said first interface unit having a first port to which the first external apparatus is connectable and disconnectable and through which said first interface unit connects to the first external apparatus;

a second interface unit for connection to a second external apparatus, said second interface unit having a second port to which the second external apparatus is connectable and disconnectable and through which said second interface unit connects to the second external apparatus;

a third interface unit for connection to a removable storage medium; and

a control unit that sets the first port in an enabled state or a disabled state, and sets the second port in the enabled state or the disabled state,

wherein if said first interface unit detects that the first external apparatus is connected to the first port, said control unit determines whether the first external apparatus is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit,

wherein if said second interface unit detects that the second external apparatus is connected to the second port, said control unit determines whether the second external apparatus is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit,

wherein said control unit does not set the second port in the disabled state until said control unit determines that the first external apparatus connected to the first port is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit,

wherein said control unit does not set the first port in the disabled state until said control unit determines that the second external apparatus connected to the second port is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit,

wherein if said control unit determines that the second external apparatus is disconnected from the second port when the first port is in the disabled state, said control unit returns the first port from the disabled state to the enabled state, and

wherein if said control unit determines that the first external apparatus is disconnected from the first port when the second port is in the disabled state, said control unit returns the second port from the disabled state to the enabled state,

wherein the storage apparatus is a digital video camera.

Claim 15 (canceled).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 11-14 and 21 (renumbered 1-5) are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner could not find a digital camera that interfaces with two external devices and controls access to a storage medium (via another interface) as required by independent claim 11 (renumbered 1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD M. BEMBEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7634. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ometz David can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Ometz/
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RMB